

SERVING HER COMMUNITY, ONE CUP AT A TIME

A love of people was a prime motivator for Anne McIntosh when she started her espresso shop, Back Country Mudd, in Riverton four years ago.



McIntosh purchased the building for her espresso shop with the proceeds of the sale of Lee Sanitation Garbage Company, a company she co-owned with her companion. Before his untimely death, he used his share of the money to finance a construction company, Natco, Inc. which is now owned by his son and where McIntosh works part-time as office manager. Anne has been able to take numerous classes offered by the Small Business Development Center and the Small Business Administration, including NxLevel,

which have helped her further her current business career.

One of the biggest business challenges at her espresso shop is keeping enough product in stock. She stores paper products at her home and ingredients in a storage shed in town, but admits that it is tough to keep up with what her customers want.

Many of her employees are high school students. Says McIntosh, "They start to work for me in their late sophomore summer or early junior year and stay until they go to college or even come back in the summers." At this time she has seven employees helping her in the espresso shop.

Having students on staff creates another challenge which is finding adults who are willing and able to work during the early morning and daytime shifts while her teenage staff is in school. Many people find her hours are not conducive to getting their own kids to school so morning shifts are hard to fill.

As an enrolled Arapaho, McIntosh is proud to be a Native American-owned business and sees the importance of encouraging more Native Americans to become entrepreneurs. Through Natco, Inc., she has worked on a grant to continue the company's training of young people on the Reservation to prepare them for construction-type jobs. Hands on training has already provided employment to a dozen people who have found jobs with contractors.

"That's where my heart really is," says McIntosh. "Training people from the Reservation to be able to support themselves, give them the pride that they need."



McIntosh also serves on the board of the Wind River Development Fund and encourages aspiring Native American entrepreneurs to contact the organization for support with their business ventures including funding opportunities.

For more information about the Wind River Development Fund, go to <http://www.wrdf.org> or call 307.335.7330. To contact Anne McIntosh you can email her at anmcinto@wyoming.com or visit Back Country Mudd at 803 N. Federal, Riverton, WY.

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